

MINUTES
Governor's Forest Health ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 12th, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.
County Supervisors Association – 1905 West Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present:

Taylor McKinnon; Bob Broscheid; Karl Siderits; Brian Nowicki; Carl Edminster; Richard Van Demark; Deb Hill (via phone); Kirk Rowdabough; Thomas Swetnam; Wally Covington; Ed Smith; Marty Moore; Steve Campbell

Members Absent:

Beth Zimmerman; Dona Falk; Lori Faeth; Robert Lacapa

1) Call to order

Meeting called to order 1:40 P.M.
Introduction of council members

2) Approval of minutes of the **1.08.03** meeting

A recommendation was made to amend the minutes to include those council members who were present/absent. Motion to approve minutes (post amendments) was made by Dr. Moore, motion seconded by Mr. Rowdabaugh, motion passed unanimously by the Council.

3) Subcommittees

a. Reports

i. Monitoring & Evaluation – Steve Campbell

Chart- across the landscape consistency for national level to serve a broad based audience. Product and platform are standardized. Focus on Monitoring and Evaluation. Technical monitoring.

Wally Covington- workshop in Sedona. Insect, disease fire and drought, focusing from FIA data inquisition to state/local programs for monitoring these aspects, urban forestry to wild land. Nationally/State protocol? Yes. Following national with special emphasis to develop additional layers to suit local needs. Will those coordinate with our meeting tomorrow? Statewide mapping and assessment yes. Emphasis on collaborative effort. Ecological response to deter effects from disease and infestations. Preservation of a various species while preserving the forest. A website will become available to showcase presentations. Thomas Swetnam will provide the address to be linked from the forest health website

ii. Utilization & Commerce – Marty Moore

Introductory remarks by Rep. O'Halleran. Interest from the forest product industry, local governments. Anticipation of 40-50 participants. Open the discussion on potential areas of agreement relationship with sustainability and sustainability harvest.

iii. Land Use & Wildland Fire – Don Falk

No great changes to report, documentation to be forwarded to the council. Agreement on over view, which will be further developed in the near future.

b. Cross-council updates / information sharing (Staff)

Rob Smith, Kirk Rowdabaugh, Steve Campbell, Beth Zimmerman, Deb Young, Mark Fallon

Grants have been identified to assist their efforts to development methods to inform the public.

- Arizona Firewise has a consistent message “if we all contribute then we can all be Firewise compliant”.
- Preliminary draft brochures have been proposed, “Protect your homes from wildfire”. Future revisions include changing graphics to reflect Arizona forests.
- A request was made to have the Governor to make a proclamation that March 22-26 as “Firewise Week”.
- Fliers featuring details of Firewise week will be mailed to the public in addition to a various postings (featuring links to Firewise and related agencies) on the Forest Health website.
- Talking points, messages to relay during media events.
- Development of PSA, April 1st- May 15th – In anticipation of another bad fire season, “Things we need to do to prevent”. This would include testimonials of those who followed prevention measures and were successful. (contact information of individuals available to the media?)
- Request for designated Forest Health Media Representative – Suggestions: Jim Paxton (KPNX) or Mark Curtis (KPNX).
- Billboards/radio announcements
- Presentations for fire departments to use for community outreach

A question was raised whether utility corporations will be donating resources for this campaign. A commitment is pending the development of materials (brochures, fliers, etc.,). An increase in support and participation is anticipated at the completion of those documents. The subcommittee projects these methods will reach 1 million homeowners.

Thanks to APS for their effort and support!

To bring more attention to Northern Arizona, Corey Cox has completed a PPT for select members of each community to present to the public (any suggestions to provide awareness and publicity is encouraged). The PPT will be available for review when the recommendations have been revised. Key communities include: Show Low, Payson, Flagstaff, Prescott. Contact person: Heather Garbarino.

Draft of public message available for internal review.

4) Prioritization Matrix

a. Kirk Rowdabaugh

Documentation available on the web. Pending statewide activities which will occur tomorrow and the grant provided by EOC, it has not been revised recently. Devised to meet the ten year requirements used priority classification, The assessment was consistent with national guidelines. Sensitive to demographics

that are subject to change over time. Communities such as Flagstaff were scored at 115% for risk of fire, available for all communities. Committee review to communities to identify interesting, case by case that made it greater/lower than norm...systematic error? Pending further revisions from what the Governor's Council can produce for mapping guidelines. Swetnam-it would be useful if a brief overview could be beneficial to other participants. Integration for other folks coming from other communities, is that planned? No, difficult to fit in at this time. But we will try since it is a critical piece of information conducive to efforts by the Council. Fits within the policy guidelines. Challenge with the boundaries is that there is confirmation of houses located in those areas.

5) Community Wildland Fire Hazard Protection Plans

a. Richard VanDemark

Healthy Forest Restoration Act - encourages the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).

1. At-risk community is defined at the local level
2. Developed in a collaborative environment with guidance: Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
3. Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments on federal and non federal land
4. Recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at risk community

These plans are meant to present on the ground activities currently underway and planned in the near future, they will facilitate funding of fuel reduction activities, and may be developed in partnership with the local Federal agency by the local community group (such as Prescott, Payson and Flagstaff).

Meetings have been held to insure that federal resources will be directed to areas that have such plans implemented. Half of those resources must be spent on the interface defined by each community's fire protection plan.

How do these plans relate to existing plans? The intention is to use them in conjunction with existing measures down to local community to decide how such plans will be utilized.

Co-chair McKinnon requested presentation on the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to be done for the Council. Call to Council to identify person for that purpose - Jay Jensen recommended by Mr. Rowdabaugh.

6) National Forests in Arizona forest fuels mgmt program for FY 04/05

- a. Summary of the projects in data form and on maps
- b. Karl Siderits

Handout "Forest Fuels Fire Management and Wildland Urban Interface"

Summary - What is going on in our six national forests (within Arizona) and what is the future?

Five major priorities within the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service: Restoration of Forest and Rangeland Ecosystems; Community Protection; Contributing to the Economic Vitality of Communities; Ensure Employees have a safe and Healthy Work Environment; and Providing Quality Supervision and Leadership to meet Forest Service Goals. A new goal of "Priorities within Priorities which is focused on providing focus and funds.

With communities being in such close proximity to the Forest, a lot of costly hand thinning projects must be conducted. Many of these projects are over \$500 per acre. As a result, we are working closely with county governments to support their approach to bring wood utilizing industries into their areas. Forest Service could advertise service contracts and stewardship contracts (over a 10 year period) which would help to support these type of activities. The national forests in Arizona will be increasingly aggressive in completing their Wildland Urban Interface projects.

It would be beneficial to increase our (have) coordination between the region and this council. Tom Beddow from our regional Fire and Aviation staff will be available to assist this Council and its subcommittees in mapping and assessment and other forest fuels management issues. We also look forward to AICG (AZ Interagency Coordinating Group), which is composed of federal and state fire management experts, continuing to provide their input to assist the state forester in developing a statewide mapping and data management system of fuels projects. Much collaboration is occurring.

- 7) Executive Order Goal: Monitor and evaluate results of existing demonstration restoration projects in Arizona to share lessons learned;
 - a) Preliminary Report on Restoration Projects – Dr. Wally Covington
Mr. Covington had his staff put together a draft document. Coverage on highlights and requests for suggestions on revisions. Concurrent compilation for the State of New Mexico draft of the document will be forwarded to heather for disbursement. The intent is to synthesize and analyze. Including other region would be beneficial. Ed Smith – this a good start, how do we incorporate other What is the councils feeling on synthesis and What is the scope of monitor and evaluate. What we know , what we don't know is interrelated with the next goal.

Is there going to be a visual (maps) available? Yes

This document may actually cause a reevaluation of our guidelines. Is this a subcommittee or council effort? Monitoring and evaluation is not equal. Do we need to committees? Clarify what steps are necessary to achieve executive order consistent with the charge of the council. What are the intermediate steps? (case by case descriptions) Is there a website available to describe each of the treatment areas? Subcommittee to brainstorm on approaches available? They are different objectives, however, we need to fulfill the governors requirements. Ask the oversight council to consider the political contexts? Do we have an interest in involving design work? Gap analysis?

Co chair to consult with Lori and other co-chairs on the best approach to engage? Message to council, what's important independent of what policy can do? (prior to the development of the subcommittee)

- 1-council review and comment
- 2-distribute widely for more input
- 3-add preliminary results on projects

- 8) Legislative Update
 - a. Lori Faeth
Lori is not available to comment

- 9) Next steps / assignments / workshops
 - a. **February 9-12th** Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Sedona

b. **March 19, 2004** Governor's Forest Health Conference in Prescott

- i. Lori Faeth will give a brief overview

Draft agenda available at this time. Including sessions and breakout groups. Members of both councils are encouraged to participate. A mixer will take place at the Prescott Brewery the day before. The following day is a homeowner's workshop. Any questions on conference please contact heather.

10) Mapping & Assessment Workshop

- a. **February 13, 2004 8am-3pm**

b. Department of Emergency Management - Papago Park

c. Lunch provided - THANK YOU TO APS and MICHAEL NEAL!

d. If you plan to attend, you must RSVP to heatherg@azcommerce.com!

11) Future meeting dates and locations

- a. Set 2004 schedule

i. March 11th

Phoenix @ County Supervisor's Association

ii. April 8th

Phoenix @ County Supervisor's Association

iii. May 13th

Location to be determined - suggestions?

12) Call to the Public

None

13) Adjournment

Kirk moves

Marty seconds

CO-CHAIRS

Beth Zimmerman – Department of Emergency Management

Taylor McKinnon – Grand Canyon Trust